

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Immunization Program**

**Influenza Vaccine Supply Update
- October 6, 2004 -**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) had planned to supply 630,000 doses of influenza vaccine for the 2004-2005 influenza season. This vaccine was ordered from the two manufacturers of injectable flu vaccine licensed for use in the United States, Aventis (Fluzone®) and Chiron (Fluvirin®). MDPH planned to purchase 462,000 doses of the Chiron product and 168,000 doses of the Aventis product.

MDPH learned yesterday that Chiron will not be able to supply any influenza vaccine for this season. Chiron has been experiencing manufacturing problems related to sterility. As a result, the British regulatory authority has suspended its license for three months.

Please note: Massachusetts has not received any Chiron influenza vaccine and Chiron vaccine has not been distributed in the United States this season.

National Influenza Vaccine Supply

The national supply of influenza vaccine was projected to be approximately 100 million doses. Chiron was to produce approximately 46 million of those doses for this influenza season. Aventis has shipped over half of the 54 million doses it planned to supply. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working closely with Aventis to determine how best to distribute the remaining 24 million doses.

In addition, approximately 1.1 million doses of live attenuated influenza vaccine (FluMist®, nasal vaccine only approved for use in those aged 5 to 49 years old) will be available nationally. MedImmune manufactures this vaccine and more information can be obtained at 1-877-FLUMIST.

Massachusetts Influenza Vaccine Supply

To date, MDPH has received approximately 80,000 doses of Aventis product. In mid-September, 40,000 doses were received and distributed primarily to pediatric provider sites. Remaining doses will be held pending development of plans to assure distribution to high-risk individuals and guidance from CDC regarding distribution of national supplies.

It remains unclear exactly how many doses of influenza vaccine will be available through MDPH or private purchase. MDPH is awaiting federal guidance. The current inventories and any future doses of influenza vaccine will be distributed in accordance with national recommendations. **Due to the uncertainty of the influenza supply, public clinics should not be scheduled until further notice.**

Guidelines for Prioritization of the Remaining Influenza Vaccine Supplies

In response to this urgent situation, the CDC, in coordination with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), issued interim guidelines for the prioritization of influenza vaccine on October 5, 2004(<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm53d1005.pdf>). In order to ensure that influenza vaccine is available for those at highest risk, it is critical that providers follow these new recommendations whether they are using state-supplied or privately purchased vaccine.

MDPH will be working closely with local health departments and providers to facilitate the optimal use of the influenza vaccine. The latest information about the national influenza vaccine supply and recommendations for use can be found on the CDC website www.cdc.gov/flu. As more guidance becomes available, it will be shared regularly via MDPH updates and posted on our website www.mass.gov/dph. Information about influenza and personal protective measures to prevent the spread of influenza and its complications can also be found on the MDPH website.